

11-11-2286-61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NR 12-8-78



RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED: 040011

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
The Oliver House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
203 West Front Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Corning  
STATE  
Arkansas

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First  
VICINITY OF  
COUNTY  
Clay  
CODE  
05  
CODE  
021

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Law office

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Sole, Inc.  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Corning  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Arkansas 72422

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER  
Market and Second Streets

CITY, TOWN  
Corning  
STATE  
Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
State Survey, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE  
November, 1971  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
County files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

CITY, TOWN  
Little Rock  
STATE  
Arkansas 72201

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1895</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Oliver House is a two story, ell shaped, frame structure facing east. The long leg of the ell runs north to south and has a gambrel roof. The short leg projects east with a gabled roof. There is a second gable placed in the gambrel roof south of the roof intersections. South of this gable is a gabled dormer. A second dormer is on the south side of the gable leg. There are two brick chimneys, one centered on the gable leg and the other centered on the gambrel leg. There are three dormers on the rear (west).

A Tuscan column porch begins on the south corner of the east side, wraps the short ell leg and continues across the north side. On the south elevation is a three-bay window. The entrance door and sidelights are oval beveled glass and the transom is a straight pane. Windows on gable ends are one center window flanked by two narrower ones. Windows are one over one (1/1). Windows on the east elevation, first story have diamond pattern upper panes. The building is finished in weatherboard.

Leading from the entrance hall to the second level is a half-turn stair composed of turned banisters with paneling below the stair. At the intersection of the stair and second floor is a half-round projection into the stairwell. The stairwell is enclosed with the same railing as the stair. Woodwork in the structure is original. There are two notable mantels. In the first parlor is a classically detailed mantel. In the parlor behind is a pattern book Victorian mantel. The house is heated with steam radiators, by the American Radiator Company.

Editor's Note: The house was remodeled in 1901 and 1910. Originally, the structure faced north onto Walnut Street. In 1895 it was moved to face the railroad. In 1909 the upstairs and porch were added. The original structure is encased within the present building but there is no physical evidence of its existence. While the first structure was built in 1887, the house existent today should be considered a 1909 structure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PRE-1800	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1800-1849	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1850-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1900-1949	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1950-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
2000-2099	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
2100-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1880, 1901, 1909 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oliver House is an example of a dwelling which organically developed from a small Victorian core structure begun in ca. 1880 into a large classically detailed structure, last altered in 1909. The building faces the rail line that spurred the growth of Corning, Arkansas, and is closely linked with one of the community's outstanding twentieth-century merchants, J. L. Oliver, Jr.

The Oliver House is one of the oldest standing structures in Corning. (Note: reputedly the second oldest.) As originally built, the house faced Walnut Street in the north. In 1895 it was moved to face the railroad line across the street and to the east of the house. The exact date of construction for the building is unknown. J. M. Oliver, II, son of an early occupant in the house, believes that the building was erected in the 1870's. This date cannot be confirmed. Furthermore, the present appearance of the building dates from after the turn of the century when owner, Dr. J. M. Oliver, radically altered the appearance of the structure.

Dr. Oliver bought the building from J. W. Harb in 1887, who in turn had acquired the land from the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad one year earlier. After Dr. Oliver's death the building passed into the hands of his son, J. M. Oliver, II. Oliver ran a general merchandise store, Oliver and Company, on the same block occupied by the Oliver House. The Oliver and Company building, though greatly modified, remains standing. The Oliver home and Oliver and Company building were once separated by a horse lot, but a small frame dwelling presently occupies the site between the buildings.

The two major alterations which completely modified the house occurred in 1901 and 1909 leaving in their wake a sprawling, classically-detailed dwelling. In the 1909 alteration a second floor was added to the house and a columned porch was attached to the east and north elevations. An outstanding interior feature of the house is the half-turn stair composed of turned bannisters with paneling below the stair. At the intersection of the stair and second floor is an unusual half-round projection into the stairwell. The stairwell is enclosed with the same railing as the stair. The building also contains two notable mantels, each probably dating from a different remodelling period. One in the front parlor is classically detailed, while one in an adjoining, rear parlour of a Victorian, pattern-book design. The building is still heated with steam radiators cast by the American Radiator Company.

Overall, the exterior of the building, when compared with a 1910 photograph, is unaltered since that date. The interior retains its post 1909 appearance in several rooms; most notably the front parlor and second-floor hall landing. However, paneling has been applied to several rooms which serve as offices for the present owner, attorney Oliver E. Cox.

Mr. Cox is aware of the intrinsic value of the property and plans to preserve the house for use as his law office.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstract, in possession of Oliver E. Cox, Corning, Arkansas.  
 Cox, Oliver E., Interview, August 15, 1978.  
 Oliver, Eulalae. Interview by Oliver E. Cox, Attorney, July 1978.  
 Oliver, J. M., Interview by Cal Cotton, November, 1971.

# GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 11 and 12 in Block 20 in the City of Corning, Arkansas.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Arkansas		Clay	

# FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frezil Miller and Mike Shinn

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

8/29/78

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Markham Streets (Suite 500, Continental Bldg.)

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas 72201

# STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**OLIVER E. COX**  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
CORNING, ARKANSAS 72422

AUG 25 1978

August 22, 1978

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
Suite 500, Continental Bldg.  
Markham & Main Sts.  
Little Rock, Ark. 72201

Re: Oliver's House, Corning,  
Clay County

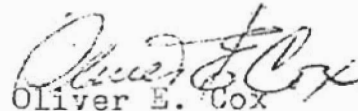
Gentlemen:

Your historic preservation program is one that will have long-range benefits for this state and nation, from the standpoint of our heritage, culture and achievement, because the success of our future is shaped by the significance of our past.

The diverse and broad geographical preservation of historic sites enables the exhibition of the long-founded and widespread faith in America and gives encouragement to the long-awaited and widespread prayers of others in the world.

Preservation of part of our past lies within your discretion of selection. In my opinion, the property herein represents a classic example of lasting character in architectural design and a classic example of confidence in America's destiny.

Yours very truly,

  
Oliver E. Cox

